

Message Text

SECRET

PAGE 01 ISLAMA 06928 171220Z
ACTION NODS-00

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AMEMBASSY PARIS
AMEMBASSY TEHRAN

S E C R E T ISLAMABAD 6928

EXDIS HANDLE AS NODIS

FROM UNDERSECRETARY NEWSOM

JIDDA FOR NEWSOM ONLY

E.O. 11652: XGDS-1
TAGS: PEPR, MNUC, TECH, FR, PK, US
SUBJECT: UNDERSECRETARY NEWSOM'S MEETING WITH JACOMET - 16 JULY

1. SUMMARY. AT FRENCH INVITATION, I MET WITH JACOMET FOR 45 MINUTES ON JULY 16 AT FRENCH AMBASSADOR'S RESIDENCE. AMBASSADORS HUMMEL AND LE GOURRIEREC ALSO PRESENT. JACOMET TOLD ME HE WILL BE INFORMING GOP JULY 17 OF FRENCH DECISION TO CANCEL REPROCESSING PLANT. END SUMMARY.

2. I GAVE JACOMET A SUMMARY OF MY TALKS IN TEHRAN, NEW DELHI, KABUL, AND ISLAMABAD. I TOLD HIM THAT IN ISLAMABAD I HAD TOLD THE PAKISTANIS WE COULD RESUME ECONOMIC AID AND COULD PROVIDE F-5S, HOWITZERS, HAWK MISSILES, AND SOME SHIPS (AMONG OTHER THINGS) IF THE REPROCESSING PROBLEM IS SOLVED. I ALSO MENTIONED GENERAL ZIA'S EXPRESSED INTEREST IN MIRAGE AIRCRAFT. I STRESSED THAT I HAD SOLICITED IRANIAN HELP FOR PAKISTAN'S MILITARY ACQUISITIONS,

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MAKING IT CLEAR THAT WE ARE SYMPATHETIC TO PAKISTANI PROCUREMENT FROM OTHER SOURCES (I.E., FRANCE).

3. JACOMET SAID HE HAD STOPPED IN IRAN FOR A DAY AND HAD BEEN AUTHORIZED BY HOVEYDA TO TELL PAKS THAT IRAN WOULD HELP PAKISTAN IF THE REPROCESSING PLANT IS NOT BUILT. HOWEVER, HE WAS TOLD THAT IRAN DOES NOT PLAN TO

FINANCE ANY FRENCH AIRCRAFT FOR PAKISTAN. I SAID THE SHAH HAD TOLD ME HE WOULD HELP WITH FINANCING AIRCRAFT FOR PAKISTAN WITHOUT STIPULATING THEIR SOURCE. THERE WAS OBVIOUSLY SOME CONFUSION AT THIS POINT, BUT I STILL HOPE THAT AFTER THE REPROCESSING PROBLEM IS SOLVED THE SHAH WILL RESPOND TO A CONCRETE PROPOSAL TO FINANCE SUBSTANTIAL PAK ARMS PURCHASES. I SAID ZIA SAID HE DID NOT WANT HELP QUOTE THROUGH IRAN UNQUOTE BY WHICH WE ASSUMED HE MEANT THAT HE WANTED TO DEAL DIRECTLY WITH SUPPLIER, HOWEVER FINANCING WAS ARRANGED.

4. JACOMET SAID THAT IN HIS TALKS WITH GOP HE WOULD FIRST EXPLAIN THAT FRANCE IS FIRM IN CARRYING OUT PRESIDENT GISCARD'S NONPROLIFERATION POLICY, THAT GOF HAD OFFERED CO-PROCESSING, AND WHEN THAT WAS REJECTED, HAD OFFERED AN ADD-ON MIXED NITRATE PLANT. FRANCE HAD NOW CONCLUDED THAT THE PLANT IN PRESENT CIRCUMSTANCES JEOPARDIZED GOF NON-PROLIFERATION OBJECTIVES. HE WOULD SAY THAT FRANCE HAS DECIDED NOT TO GIVE TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE FOR THE PLANT, AND WISHED FOR A REASONABLE DELAY IN ALL CONSTRUCTION SO THAT BOTH SIDES COULD COME TO A JOINT DECISION TO CANCEL ENTIRELY. FRANCE, MEANWHILE, COULD HELP WITH BUILDING A NUCLEAR POWER PLANT BUT COULD NOT GIVE ASSURANCES ON FINANCING THAT PLANT. HE WOULD HOLD OUT THE HOPE THAT IN A FEW YEARS, IF APPROVED TECHNOLOGY DEVELOPS, GOF MIGHT HELP IN PAK NUCLEAR FIELD
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CYCLE WITH SOME FORM OF REPROCESSING. HE WOULD HOLD OUT HOPE ALSO OF US AND IRANIAN ASSISTANCE IF THE PLANT IS SUSPENDED.

5. IF THE PAKS INSIST ON THE PLANT, THEN JACOMET WOULD SAY THE GOF BELIEVES THEY WANT THE PLANT IN ORDER TO MAKE A BOMB (FRENCH HAVE AND WILL GIVE US COPY OF A RECENT ZIA INTERVIEW WITH A SAUDI PAPER THAT "PROVES" THIS). IF GOP REFUSES TO CANCEL QUIETLY, JACOMET WILL SAY THE GOF WILL TELL THE WORLD OF FRANCE'S CONVICTION ABOUT PAK INTENTIONS, IN ORDER TO DEFLECT CRITICISM FOR WELCHING ON A CONTRACT. JACOMET LISTED POSSIBLE SHARP GOP REACTIONS INCLUDING ANNOUNCING GOING IT ALONE, EVEN BREAKING RELATIONS WITH FRANCE, OR (MOST EMBARRASSING) AGREEING TO CO-PROCESSING.

6. I POINTED OUT THAT ZIA HAD SAID PAKISTANI OPINION HAD CONFUSED THE REPROCESSING PLANT WITH POWER GENERATION, AND JACOMET MIGHT WANT TO OFFER TO BUILD A POWER PLANT, WHICH THE PAKS PLAN TO HAVE ANYWAY, AS ONE MEANS OF DIVERTING PUBLIC IRE. JACOMET WAS INTRIGUED BY THIS IDEA; HE SAID, HOWEVER, THAT HE COULD GIVE NO ASSURANCE

OF FINANCING THE POWER PLANT.

7. WE AGREED TO KEEP IN TOUCH THROUGH OUR AMBASSADORS
IN ISLAMABAD, AND ALSO WHEN I VISIT PARIS IN A FEW DAYS.
HUMMEL

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